

Crossroads



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Lajes Field, Azores, Portugal | Lajes in the Fight!

Force Protection



*Current FPCON: Alpha
Watch. Report. Protect.*

Lajes in the Fight (November 2007)

Space-required
passengers handled
1,762

Space-available
passengers handled
640

Cargo tons handled
167

Mail tons handled
24

Originating shipments,
pieces handled
110/162

Terminating shipments,
pieces handled
256/2,304

Aircraft handled
112

DUI/DWI Stats

Last DUI/DWI: Oct. 27
FY '07 Total: 2



**Need a ride?
Call 964-955-992
Saves in CY' 07: 45**

Understanding the mail system can help personnel anticipate, prepare for delays

By Tech. Sgt. Christin Michaud
65th ABW Public Affairs

Sometimes sending mail to and from overseas locations may seem like it takes as long as sending a message in a bottle.

Fortunately for people stationed at Lajes, sending mail to the United States from here won't take as long as a bottle floating across the Atlantic Ocean. That doesn't mean personnel won't see delays compared to the average 3-5 days they are accustomed to for first-class mail in the States.

First-class or letter mail departs here Monday through Friday on Air Portugal flights to Lisbon, Portugal. From there it is flown to JFK International Airport where it is then put in the hands of the U.S. Postal Service.

The exception to this is for registered mail.

"Insured/Certified letter mail is handled the same but registered mail goes on AMC (flights) only and takes longer because it is signed for at each transfer spot," explained Postmaster, Tech. Sgt. Amanda Snyder. Registered mail should only be used for high-valued items or extremely important documents.

Mail to the States point-of-entry should take no longer than 5 days depending on when it was dropped off at the post office here, the postmaster said.

Once it is entered in the USPS system, it will go according to class. The length of time it takes to get to its destination will also depend on where it is being sent to. One advantage is the USPS now processes mail 7 days a week, Sergeant Snyder said.

It is important to be cautious of what is being sent and the deadline. For Lajes personnel, it may be wise to consider paying bills online or setting up an allotment. The late Mother's Day card may make Mom sad, but a late payment to a creditor could impact credit history and be reflected on a credit report.

"We recommended online bill payment during financial counseling and classes we offer," explained Airman & Family Readiness Flight Chief Mary Long. This is due to the time-sensitive nature of bills and the impact on one's credit score.

The postmaster echoed that. "I would advise customers to be proactive with their payments and use internet banking and don't wait until the last minute ... because things happen that



Graphic composite by Tech. Sgt. Jeremiah Erickson

we can't control," she said.

"Unfortunately the military postal system cannot guarantee transit times and we do see the occasional delay or missent mail that we here at Lajes can't help because it's out of our hands and in the hands of the USPS," explained Sergeant Snyder. "The majority of first-class mail arrives at Lajes Field on schedule but if there are any foreseen delays we are promptly notified by McGuire Air Force Base."

Understanding how the mail system works is beneficial and can help Team Lajes plan accordingly. Anyone just working on Christmas cards should mark their calendars. The Post Office suggests cards be mailed on or before Dec. 11 to arrive to the United States before the holiday. Of course, this is just a rough estimate and is subject to change.

The mail at Lajes and other overseas locations does take longer than mail within the states. Good news is, it's faster than the old method of a message in a bottle, and the 65th Communications Squadron Post Office staff and volunteers do their best to expedite mail arriving and departing from Lajes.



Commander's Action Line: Space A, stray dog concerns

The Commander's Line is your link to me for suggestions, kudos and as a way to work problems or issues within the 65th Air Base Wing for which you can't find another solution. Your chain of command should always be your first option for praise or problems — but when that's not the answer, call or e-mail the Commander's Line at 535-4240 or actionline@lajes.af.mil.

Col. JL Briggs
Commander, 65th Air Base Wing

Space A Broken

Question: We've all experienced frustration with Space "A" before, but I have to say that the new rotation simply IS NOT working for those who are stationed at Lajes. It is next to impossible to get out of Lajes even as a Category II traveler. In the past four days two flights scheduled to arrive at Lajes and continue on to the States have flown right on by (one of them was the PatExpress). A second plane (Navy C-40) arrived, but supposedly 0 seats were open on this aircraft.

To add to the frustration, not a single blue suiter (or leadership, who has promised to watch this situation carefully to see how it is working) was anywhere near the Pax terminal. The

employees at the terminal were courteous and did their best, but their knowledge on what was going on was limited.

We all understand that Space "A" travel is a risk, but something needs to be done to address the EML issues. Several locations have PEMPL (paid EML as authorized in the JFTR), and if this is the present and future of Lajes Space "A" travel then whatever avenues are available to get Lajes on the approved Paid EML listing should be pursued.

Response: Thank you for your questions concerning Space-Available travel at Lajes.

I can assure you, viable opportunities for Space-A travel to both mainland Europe and the United States top my list of quality of life concerns. In addition to commercial airline options for travel to and from Europe and the United States, our Space-A choices include the Patriot Express, DC-8 (Baltimore), and the monthly KC-135 to RAF Mildenhall. We continue to explore alternatives with Active and Guard flying wings to enhance the amount of aircraft transiting Lajes, therefore increasing our chances for Space-A travel.

The Patriot Express 767 from

Norfolk, Virginia, is contracted for 240 seats which are allocated to duty passengers at five separate locations. As with all contract military flights, the priority is centered on

Space-Required (duty passengers) seats. Space-Required seating at all locations remains open for cross utilization up to 24-hours prior to the aircraft's departure, and this total continues to fluctuate based on mission requirements at each location. Space-Available seats are the sum of the unfilled Space-Required seats as the aircraft departs each stop along the route. The 729th Air Mobility Squadron began keeping detailed data of passenger information since the first flight of the new Patriot Express, and briefs wing leadership and squadron commanders on a weekly basis for us to monitor. Unfortunately, downrange personnel rotation changes, mission requirements and peak PCS periods will always have an impact on Space-A seating whether you're at Ramstein, Travis or Lajes.

The Patriot Express did experience a



Col. JL Briggs



Mashed potatoes?

Commanders and first sergeants donned chef hats and aprons to serve the Thanksgiving meal to Airmen at the Dining Facility Nov. 22. (Photo by Senior Airman Taylor Marr)



The 65th Air Base Wing Public Affairs staff prepares all editorial content in the Crossroads.

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Action Lines continued from page 2

critical mechanical issue which caused it to over fly Lajes and land at an airfield capable of supporting the necessary equipment repairs. Opening Space-A seats on other aircraft transiting Lajes is at the discretion of the aircraft commander and also subject to regulations which may or may not allow passengers based on specific cargo.

Funded Environmental Morale Leave has not been approved by EUCOM due to the fact that Lajes has scheduled military airlift, but we are monitoring the situation closely and we will continue to explore the option of Funded EML.

If FEML was approved, only one Funded EML entitlement would be authorized for personnel serving a 24-month or longer tour, but would not be authorized for personnel serving a 15-month tour.

My focus is on improving the quality of life for all Airmen under my command, and I assure you we continue to explore alternatives to improve our Space-A needs.

Note: The 729th Air Mobility Squadron has secured additional holiday Space-A opportunities for people from Lajes trying to get to the states for the holidays. Flights are available Dec. 7 to Norfolk, Va.; Dec. 9 to McGuire, N.J.; Dec. 14 to Norfolk, Dec. 16 to BWI and McGuire, Dec. 18 there will be two KC-10s to McGuire; Dec. 21 to Norfolk and Dec. 23 to BWI and McGuire. Additional return flights are also in the works from McGuire.

Stray Dogs

Question: I live in Nascor do Sol and I have a concern regarding the stray dog in the neighborhood. The fact that the dog is being fed by housing residents is not new. The fact that the dog chases other residents' dogs is not new. These issues have been raised, but continue despite past complaints.

Recently, the dog was in heat, in turn inviting up to five other stray dogs into the neighborhood. Who is responsible for an incident involving this dog and the visitors? I don't think this issue has been raised. Granted, nothing has happened to a child at the park or in the neighborhood yet, but when something does, whose name is to be listed on the lawsuit? If residents have been ordered not to feed the dog and continue to do so, where is the disciplinary action for disobeying a direct

order? Do we have to see people feeding the dog to know the dog is being fed? Is there not enough evidence; i.e., the dog following residents on a walk, sleeping on the doorstep, etc... to render a proper action?

The issue I want to raise is a blatant and brazen disregard for authority. The same residents who are friendly to this dog aren't considering their neighbors when doing so. I am seeing a lack of discipline and it puts others at risk. Did I mention that others have seen the dog at the school? Sure, it seems like a nice enough dog, but can't these same residents be told to catch the dog for the authorities or adopt it and take full responsibility for it?

Response: Stray pet complaints in the Lajes Field housing areas are common and it is true that it creates hazards for the residents and their pets. Lajes Field Instruction (LFI) 31-2/Control of Animals and Lajes Field Pamphlet (LFP) 32-10/Housing Brochure identify responsibilities and procedures for pet owners and various tasked installation organizations.

All housing residents have a responsibility to notify the Security Forces Security Defense Coordination Center (SDCC) at 535-3221/3222 when they have identified a stray, nuisance, or dangerous animal in their neighborhood. Security Forces will respond and take custody of or attempt to catch the stray pet. Security Forces personnel may have priority calls at times and may not be able to respond immediately, but will answer the call as soon the opportunity affords itself. If a housing resident is able to catch and hold onto the pet until Security Forces arrives, that will assist them in their identification process as well.

Security Forces identifies pets using a chip scanner to locate the owner. If they can identify the owner, they notify them and then complete an incident report citing the owner in violation of Article 92/Failure to Follow an order. The report is sent to the owner's (or sponsor's) commander for action.

At an earlier date, Security Forces caught a stray dog and scanned it realizing the dog did not have a chip. They turned the dog over to Portuguese Air Police where the dog escaped.

Since this pet is not owned by Air Force personnel, it has been deter-



mined after consulting with base legal officials, that Security Forces is not authorized to order the euthanasia or removal from the installation even if it has been classified as

dangerous or vicious. It will be turned over the local authorities again, if caught.

As far as legal interpretation and reviews involving lawsuits if someone is injured by a stray pet, personnel should contact the base legal office.

If residents have been ordered not to feed the dog and continue to do so, I suggest you contact that member's leadership (First Sergeant or commander). Security Forces responds to reports of crimes, makes apprehensions (if necessary), and provides an objective report to unit commanders of members in violation of established directives and instructions. In order for Security Forces to have probable cause to apprehend personnel, it is necessary for someone to have witnessed a crime. Someone would have to see people feeding the stray dog to know the dog is being fed. An unclaimed stray dog following residents on a walk or sleeping on the doorstep is not enough evidence to hold a housing resident responsible, but it is enough evidence to make a complaint to Security Forces to take custody of a stray pet. Security Forces is also authorized to take custody of stray pets at the DoDDS Compound.

If housing residents catch a stray animal and would like to adopt it, they must do so IAW LFI 31-2 and adhere to the rules therein. Owners must register dogs and cats with the Veterinary Treatment Facility within 72 hours of obtaining them. If animal ownership changes, the new owner must re-register the animal, ensure it has a current rabies immunization certificate, a registration microchip and a U.S. Forces identification tag. Housing residents who fail to comply with LFI 31-2 and 32-10 may subject the individual to permanent loss of authorization to keep animals, involuntary termination of government quarters or other punitive actions.

Thank you for your time and concern in keeping Lajes Field safe.

Note: The stray dog mentioned in this Action Line, as well as her puppies, have been adopted. Please contact the SDCC at 535-3222 or 295-57-3222 to report any stray pets.



Movie Schedule

Today, 7 p.m. – Elizabeth: The Golden Age (PG-13); **10 p.m.** – The Heartbreak Kid (R)

Saturday, 7 p.m. – Elizabeth: The Golden Age; **10 p.m.** – We Own the Night (R)

Sunday, 2 p.m. – Elizabeth: The Golden Age; **7 p.m.** – The Heartbreak Kid

Thursday, 7 p.m. – The Heartbreak Kid

Around Lajes

Christmas Tree Lighting Ceremony: 6 p.m. Tuesday by the Beira Mar gate. For details, call 535-4211.

Allergy/Immunizations clinic changes: Immunizations – 9 to 11:30 a.m. and 1 to 4:30 p.m. Monday, Wednesday and Friday; Allergy Testing – 9 to 10 a.m. Tuesday and Thursday (referral appointment by PCM); and Allergy Injections – 10 to 11 a.m. and 3 to 4 p.m. The clinic is closed every second Wednesday of each month for readiness training until 1 p.m. For details, call 535-5076.

AWANA Children and Youth Club: AWANA is a nondenominational, Bible-centered youth organization. The Club at Lajes meets each Tuesday at Chapel, from 6 to 8 p.m. for ages 3 through 12th grade. For details, call 535-4211.

Teen Murder Mystery Night: Who kidnapped two children and demanded millions from their wealthy parents? Teens can help solve the mystery at 7 p.m. Dec. 7 at the base library. For more information, call 535-3688.

Lessons and Carols: The Ecumenical Christmas Service is scheduled for 5 p.m. Dec. 16. Following the service, stay to enjoy a meal together. Turkey and ham will be provided by the chapel. Please bring a favorite side dish and/or dessert.

Volunteer of the Quarter submissions: Fourth quarter (Oct-Dec) volunteer nominations are due by Dec. 20. There are two volunteer categories: active duty and civilian (spouses and local nationals are included in the civilian category). Please use form DD 1206 at <http://www.e-publishing.af.mil/>. E-mail elizabeth.bland@lajes.af.mil with submissions or if unable to access form, a word document with nominees name, contact information and description of accomplishments in bullet format. The nomination packages should be 5-10 concise bullets pertaining to the fourth quarter only. For details, call 535-4138.

Family Child Care providers: FCC Providers offer free care for PCS, volunteer time, Extended Duty Mission Requirements and Returning Home Care. For more information, call first sergeants

or the FCC coordinator at 535-1332.

Veterinarian on the Island: A veterinarian is scheduled to be here through

Education

Dec. 7. For appointments, call 535-3134.

Holiday Stress Management: The AFRC and the Military and Family Life Consultant are offering a presentation on stress management during the holidays. Topics include the signs and symptoms of stress, impact on the family and how to make holidays as stress free as possible. Scheduled for 6:30 to 8:30 p.m. Dec. 14 or 9 to 11 a.m. Dec. 17. To register call the A&FRC at 535-4138.

Lunch and Learn — How a New Relationship with Family Roots Enhances our Life: The Career Assistance Advisor and the University of Oklahoma are proud to host Professor William Nerin for a Lunch and Learn from noon to 1 p.m. Dec. 6 in the auditorium of the Education Center (Bldg. T-146). For details, call 535-6197.

University of Maryland University College: The tentative Term 3 Schedule is now available. Earn a bachelor's degree in only 60 hours. Find out how with the AU ABC program. For details, call 535-4187 or e-mail cjessop@ed.umuc.edu.

Leaders Encouraging Airman Development: The LEAD program allows Airman to enter the Air Force Academy directly or attend the Academy Prep School. Applicants must be unmarried and have no legal dependents. Application deadline is Jan. 31. For details, visit www.academyadmissions.com or call 535-3355.

University of Oklahoma: Earn a Master's in Human Relations in 16-24 months from OU. The first on-site course, HR5003: Theoretical Foundations of HR, a core requirement for the degree, will be held Jan. 22-27. The deadline to enroll is Dec. 24. For details, call 535-3171.

University of Phoenix: Earn a master's degree in as little as 18 months. Start in November and the application fee will be waived plus students will receive two reference manuals at no cost. Phoenix offers master's degrees in Business Administration and Education. For details, call 535-1970 or e-mail jennifer.wells@phoenix.edu.

Embry Riddle Aeronautical University Term III Classes: Embry Riddle office will be closed Dec. 24 through Jan. 1 for the holidays. Term III Schedule: MATH 211 Statistics & MGMT 324 Aviation Labor Relations. For details, call 535-3375.

Central Texas College-Mobile Learning™: CTC offers Microsoft Certified System Administrator Training via video iPod. TA eligible.

Armchair Quarterback

Congratulations to week 11 winner **Justin Wheeler** who made a comeback from last place the previous week. He switched places with week 11 winner **Paul Granholm** who is the You Don't Know Jack winner.

This week's (week 12) winner was **Michael Smith**, while the You Don't Know Jack award goes to **Peter Pollock** again. Both of these gentlemen are familiar with these positions.

What's in store for next week?

E-mail picks to news@lajes.af.mil before kickoff Sunday. In the case of a tie, a winner will be decided by who picks the closest combined score of the Monday Night game.

18 credit hours. Video iPod provided with program. CTC is open 8:15 a.m. to 1:15 p.m. Tuesday and Thursday. People may e-mail and arrange for an appointment at anytime. Call 535-6722 or e-mail lajes@europa.ctcd.edu.

Holiday closures

Oceanview Island Grill early closure: The Oceanview will close at 4 p.m. Saturday in observance of the Portuguese national holiday. For more information, call 535-3387.

Commissary holiday hours: The commissary will be closed Saturday and Dec. 8 due to local national holidays. For more information, call 535-6124.

AAFES Facilities: Both base exchanges and the shoppette will be closed Saturday and December 8 for the Portuguese holidays. They will reopen Sunday.

Lajes American School

Winter Break Vacation: Families traveling in December need to notify the school two weeks in advance if possible. The procedure is as follows: Get form from counselor, ask teacher for assignments during absence, and finally, turn in assigned work the first class meeting after the student returns.

Classified Ads

E-mail classified ads to news@lajes.af.mil by 5 p.m. the Thursday prior to the week you need it published. Notify the Crossroads when items have been sold. Lajes personnel may also post ads at Lajesads.com. This site is not affiliated with the Crossroads.

For Rent: 4 Bedroom 3 1/2 Bath home for rent in Aqualva. Fenced back yard with fruit trees, large garage, spacious living room/dining room/kitchen. Has alarm system. Beautifully remodeled. Must see to appreciate. Available Dec. 15. Call 965-199-078.